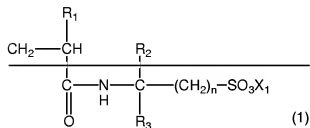
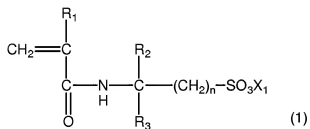


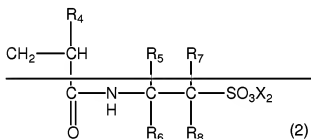
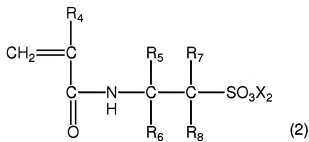
(b) Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 6, 9, and 10 as follows. A detailed listing of all the claims is provided hereafter.

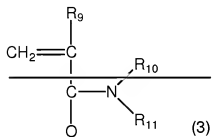
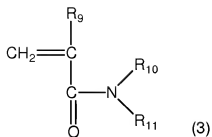
1. (Currently Amended) A dry toner comprising: (i) a binder resin; (ii) a colorant; (iii) at least one of metallophthalocyanine and a metallophthalocyanine derivative having a central metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Fe, Co, Zn, and Mn; and (iv) at least one of (a) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (1), (b) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (2), and (c) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass each of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (3) and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group:



(wherein, R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₂ and R₃ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group; X₁ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or a quaternary ammonium salt; and n represents an integer of 1 to 10)



(wherein, R₄ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₅ to R₈ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, an aromatic group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group but at least one of R₅ to R₈ represents an unsubstituted or substituted aromatic group; and X₂ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or a quaternary ammonium salt)



(wherein, R₉ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₁₀ and R₁₁ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, a C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₂₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₂₀ alkoxy group and R₁₀ and R₁₁ may be coupled together to form a nonaromatic organic group having different atoms except a carbon atom and a cyclic structure of C₄ to C₂₀).

2. (Original) The dry toner according to claim 1, wherein the colorant comprises carbon black having a particle diameter of 50 nm or less.

3. (Original) The dry toner according to claim 1, wherein the colorant comprises a cyan colorant selected from the group consisting of a Cu phthalocyanine compound, a derivative thereof, an anthraquinone compound, and a basic dye lake compound.

4. (Original) The dry toner according to claim 1, further comprising wax, wherein the wax comprises a wax having a melting point of 50 to 110°C and a wax having a melting point of 80 to 140°C.

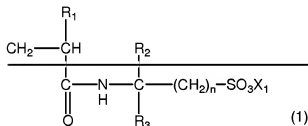
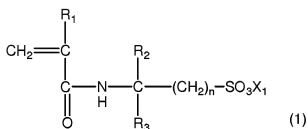
5. (Original) The dry toner according to claim 1, wherein:
the toner has a number-average equivalent circle diameter of 2 to 10 μm with respect to a number-basis particle diameter distribution measured by a flow-type particle image measuring device;

the toner has an average circularity of 0.950 to 0.995 and a content of the particles having the circularity of less than 0.950 of 30 % by number or less with respect to a frequency distribution of circularity measured by a flow-type particle image measuring device.

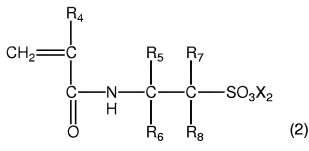
6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a dry toner, comprising:

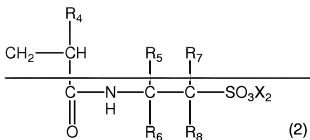
a phthalocyanine treatment step of mixing at least (iii) at least one of metallophthalocyanine and a metallophthalocyanine derivative having a central metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Fe, Co, Zn, and Mn and (iv) at least one of (a) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (1), (b) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (2), and (c) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass each of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural

formula (3) and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group, in such a manner that an absorbance of the highest absorption peak in visible absorption spectra exhibited by the metallophthalocyanine and/or the metallophthalocyanine derivative after the mixing is 5 or more times as high as that before mixing:

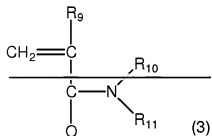
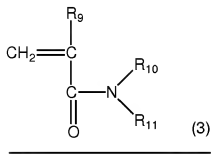


(wherein, R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₂ and R₃ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group; X₁ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or a quaternary ammonium salt; and n represents an integer of 1 to 10)





(wherein, R₄ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₅ to R₈ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, an aromatic group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group but at least one of R₅ to R₈ represents an unsubstituted or substituted aromatic group; and X₂ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or a quaternary ammonium salt)



(wherein, R₉ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₁₀ and R₁₁ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, a C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₂₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₂₀ alkoxy group and R₁₀ and R₁₁ may be coupled together to form a nonaromatic organic group having different atoms except a carbon atom and a cyclic structure of C₄ to C₂₀).

7. (Original-Rejoined) The method for producing a dry toner according to claim 6, wherein the phthalocyanine treatment step is conducted in the presence of a vinyl polymerizable monomer, and

the method further comprises a step of polymerizing the vinyl polymerizable monomer in the product prepared by the phthalocyanine treatment step.

8. (Original-Rejoined) The method for producing a dry toner according to claim 6, wherein the mixing treatment is conducted using the metallophthalocyanine and/or the metallophthalocyanine derivative having a particle diameter of 50 to 200 nm and using only a non-media type disperser in the phthalocyanine treatment step.

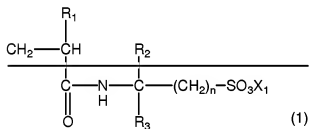
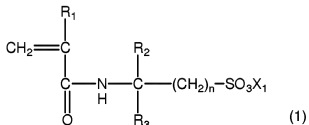
9. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a dry toner comprising the steps of:

obtaining a polymerizable monomer composition by mixing (i) a monomer which constitutes a binder resin, (ii) a colorant, (iii) at least one of metallophthalocyanine and a metallophthalocyanine derivative having a central metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Fe, Co, Zn, and Mn; and (iv) at least one of (a) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (1), (b) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (2), and (c) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass each of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural

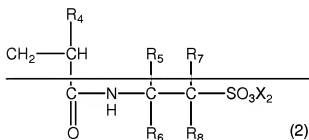
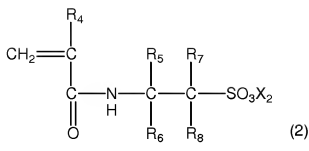
formula (3) and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group, in such a manner that an absorbance of the highest absorption peak in visible absorption spectra exhibited by the metallophthalocyanine and/or the metallophthalocyanine derivative after the mixing is 5 or more times as high as that before mixing;

granulating the polymerizable monomer composition into particles having a size according to a desired toner particle diameter; and

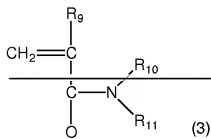
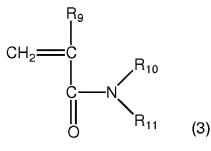
obtaining the toner by polymerizing the granulated polymerizable monomer composition:



(wherein, R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₂ and R₃ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group; X₁ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or a quaternary ammonium salt; and n represents an integer of 1 to 10)



(wherein, R_4 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R_5 to R_8 each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, an aromatic group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkenyl group, or a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group but at least one of R_5 to R_8 represents an unsubstituted or substituted aromatic group; and X_2 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or a quaternary ammonium salt)



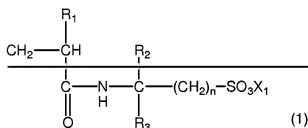
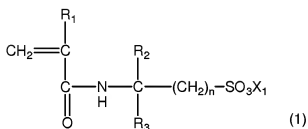
(wherein, R₉ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₁₀ and R₁₁ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, a C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₂₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₂₀ alkoxy group and R₁₀ and R₁₁ may be coupled together to form a nonaromatic organic group having different atoms except a carbon atom and a cyclic structure of C₄ to C₂₀).

10. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a dry toner comprising the steps of:

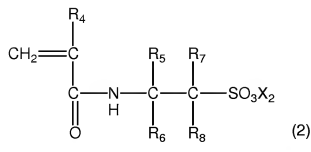
obtaining a mixture by mixing (iii) at least one of a metallophthalocyanine and a metallophthalocyanine derivative having a central metal selected from the group consisting of Cr, Fe, Co, Zn, and Mn, and (iv) at least one of (a) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (1), (b) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (2), and (c) a polymer containing 0.5 to 20 % by mass each of a base unit derived from a polymerizable monomer represented by the following structural formula (3) and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group, in such a manner that an absorbance of the highest absorption peak in visible absorption spectra expressed by the metallophthalocyanine and/or the metallophthalocyanine derivative after the mixing is 5 or more times as high as that before mixing;

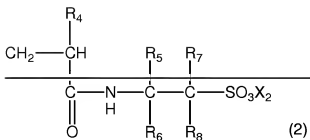
obtaining the polymerizable monomer composition by adding (i) a monomer constituting a binder resin and (ii) a colorant to the mixture;

granulating the polymerizable monomer composition into particles
 having a size according to a desired toner particle diameter; and
 obtaining the toner by polymerizing the granulated polymerizable
 monomer composition, wherein

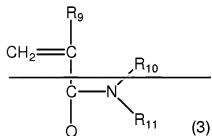
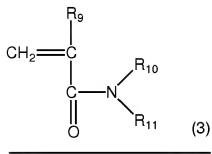


(wherein, R₁ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R₂ and R₃ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkenyl group, or a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group; X₁ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or a quaternary ammonium salt; and n represents an integer of 1 to 10)





(wherein, R_4 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R_5 to R_8 each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, an aromatic group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group, a C_1 to C_{10} alkenyl group, or a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group but at least one of R_5 to R_8 represents an unsubstituted or substituted aromatic group; and X_2 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or a quaternary ammonium salt)



(wherein, R_9 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R_{10} and R_{11} each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an aryl group, a C_1 to C_{20} alkyl group, a C_1 to C_{20} alkenyl group, or a C_1 to C_{20} alkoxy group and R_{10} and R_{11} may be coupled together to form a nonaromatic organic group having different atoms except a carbon atom and a cyclic structure of C_4 to C_{20}).

11. - 16. (Cancelled)